

HAVE YOU HEARD FROM MAINE?

This question, used as a campaign slogan, has come to be a gross insult to the intelligent people of Kansas and other Western states. Twenty-five years ago, when there was not much difference between the interests of the Maine people and those of other states, and when the questions of equal rights and loyalty to the Union crowded everything else from the campaign, this question was relevant and competent. Then it was that a prominent statesman said, "As Maine goes so goes the Union," and the cry, "Have you heard from Maine?" was the cheerful echo of the September election returns from that state.

Times are different now. You might almost as well ask, "Have you heard from England?" There is scarcely any interest in common between the people of Maine and those of Kansas. They live by manufacturing and the loaning of money. Our resources are agricultural and mining, to which our mercantile interests are incidental. True, we are all people of the same nation, but there should be a reasonable amount of reciprocity and brotherly love even between people of one family. The dual idea of statesmanship in New England is high protection and high interest on money. That obtains among the monied class, and the ignorant wage earners of that section have never recovered from the delusion that since their interests are so closely connected with those of their employers it is safe for the employers to dictate the legislation for all. So employer and employee have voted together, and until recently the people of Kansas have cheered them on.

Since education and enlightenment have changed the sentiment of the majority in Kansas it requires both ignorance and nerve for a citizen of Kansas to carry a banner on which is emblazoned this rank piece of insolence, "Have you heard from Maine?" Such a banner was displayed in Topeka the other night, but we doubt if there is another town in the state where even a republican committee would approve of it.

REPUBLICANS VIOLATE THE POSTAL LAWS.

As we stated a short time ago, the republican state central committee in 1892 sent out from the postoffice in this city tons of campaign literature in the franked envelopes of senators and representatives in congress in open violation of the United States postal laws. They are doing the same thing this year. We have been shown packages received by residents of this city enclosed in the franked envelopes of Charles Curtis, congressman from this district and candidate for re-election. These packages contained one of his speeches, the republican supplement containing Judge Allen's letter, the supplement relating to the Winfield asylum and some other matter. Charles Curtis knows that it is a violation of law to frank this matter; and he stands before the people of this district a deliberate law-breaker asking a re-election to

congress. If the Populist managers should resort to this scheme to escape payment of postage on their campaign literature, how long would it be before they would be in the hands of the United States officials? It makes a vast difference whose ox is doing the goring.

CHANGED HIS MIND.

The Populist papers are using as campaign matter part of an interview had by a State Journal reporter with Major Morrill in August, 1896, in which the major said in regard to President Cleveland's "single gold standard message":

I am well satisfied with the message. I am glad the president has overlooked the tariff question long enough to pay some attention to money matters. It shows that the president is in favor of honest money and in favor of a single gold standard. He is opposed to the free coinage of silver and is in favor of a money recognized by all countries, which means gold. I am more interested in the condition of affairs in New York than anywhere else, just now. If they don't get relief there soon, things will be much worse.

The major said this, it is true, but it is presumable in the light of subsequent events he has changed his mind. Thousands of other republicans have abandoned the gold idea in the past few months; it is fair to believe that Major Morrill has.—State Journal, September 10.

Yes, it is fair to believe that Major Morrill has changed his mind. He got his ear to the ground after the campaign opened, and from what he heard he considered it prudent to make the change. People have a right to judge, however, whether the sentiment expressed in the Journal interview when he was not a candidate for office, or that which he has reluctantly uttered since the beginning of this campaign, correctly represents his honest views.

HAVE THEY GOT THE MONEY?

The Wine and Spirit Gazette of September 12, has a report of proceedings of the annual convention at St. Louis, September 7, of the national liquor dealers' association, from which we clip the following:

A resolution was adopted to render assistance to the liquor dealers in Kansas and South Carolina. In the former state a support of the democratic ticket is recommended by the convention, while in South Carolina Tillman will be fought.

Is it in order to inquire if Mr. Overmyer's committee has received its appropriation from the St. Louis convention?

MORE REPUBLICAN DISHONESTY AND INCOMPETENCY.

Our chapter of republican record this week we will take from a report of the committee of the legislature of 1885, appointed to investigate the affairs of the penitentiary. This report, after reciting certain sections of the law applying to the conduct of this institution, says:

"This investigation has disclosed the fact that the whole some provisions of these sections have been largely, if not wholly disregarded by the directors and warden—particularly in the matter of the examination and approval of the accounts. The directors, whose duty it evidently is to assist the warden in these examinations of accounts, intrusted the performance of that duty to the clerk of the penitentiary, Mr. Pusey; and the warden, claiming that he relied upon the approval of the directors, failed or neglected to make such examinations as he should have made to have duly protected the interests of the state. The

result of such disregard of the provisions of law and of business principles has resulted in the loss at this time to the state of quite a large amount of money."

The statement of the defalcations discovered by the committee is as follows: [See house journal of 1885, pages 767, 768, 769.]

"The detailed statement of expenditures of the institution for the month of July, filed August 6, 1884, amounts to \$15,933.17; the statement of cash received by the institution for sales of coal, etc., showed the sum of \$10,662.07, leaving an amount due from the state of \$5,271.10. Warden Jones had cashed director's vouchers amounting to \$69.30, making a total amount due from the state of \$5,340.40. Both of these statements were sworn to by the warden and approved by the board of directors as correct, according to law. On August 6, 1884, Pusey was sent by the warden to make this settlement. Previous to starting from the penitentiary, he told Warden Jones that the amount due from the state was \$4,340.40—just \$1,000 less than the actual amount as shown by the detailed statement and by the books of the chief clerk. Mr. Pusey went to Topeka, drew the full amount due from the state, procured a certified deposit for \$4,340.40, which, on his return to the penitentiary, he turned over to Warden Jones, appropriating the balance of \$1,000 to his own use.

"On the 23rd of August, the warden again sent Mr. Pusey to Topeka to make settlement on the waterworks vouchers. This settlement was made on a statement properly sworn to by the warden and approved by the directors, showing an amount due from the state of \$4,525.58. In this case Mr. Pusey informed the warden that the amount due from the state was \$4,325.58. He came to Topeka, made settlement with the auditor, drew \$4,525.58 from the treasury, and returning, turned over \$4,325.58—\$200 less than the amount drawn.

"The warden's detailed statement of expenditures for the month of August shows an indebtedness of \$13,378.55. The cash receipts during the same month were \$12,393.70, leaving a balance due the penitentiary of \$1,084.85. To this was added director's vouchers, cashed by the warden amounting to \$41.80, making a total of \$1,126.65. Mr. Pusey was again detailed to make settlement, and just previous to his departure for Topeka, informed the warden the amount due was \$126.65. The state records show that he drew \$1,126.65 but, on his return to the penitentiary he turned over to Warden Jones only the amount of \$126.65, thereby pocketing the sum of \$1,000."

There is an error in the above figures as will readily be discovered. The difference between \$13,378.55 and \$12,393.70 is \$984.85 and not \$1,084.85 as above given. There must have been some bad mathematicians in other branches of the republican service as well as in the penitentiary. The report continues:

"Included in this detailed statement, filed September 5, amounting to \$13,379.58, as sworn to by the warden and approved by the directors, was an amount in favor of Owen Duffy for the sum of \$2,782.36, when as a matter of fact, Mr. Duffy had not furnished one dollar's worth of goods to the institution. This account was evidently prepared by Mr. Pusey, and approved by the warden and directors as correct. The stub of the warden's check-book shows that on September 18 a check was issued in favor of Owen Duffy for \$2,782.36, covering the amount of this fraudulent account in the detailed state-

ment. On this stub is a marginal note in Mr. Pusey's handwriting, as follows: 'Check changed to George Innes. See blotter.' On the blotter the following entry appears:

CLOTHING, ETC.

Owen Duffy, Cr.:
By 1,088 1/4 yards prison stripe at \$1.00.....\$1,088 50
By 1,710 yards 5/8 oz. flannel, at 26 cents.....444 66
By 200 blankets at \$3.35.....670 00
By 340 yards stocking, at 28 cents.....95 20

Total.....\$2,782 36

"With a marginal note in red ink: 'This should be made to George Innes. See account for Owen Duffy.'

"The cash book of the institution shows a payment of \$2,782.36 to Owen Duffy on September 18, and Mr. Innes' name appears in reference to this transaction on the books only in the marginal notes. The testimony of Auditor McCabe shows that the only voucher ever filed by the warden to cover this transaction was one purporting to be signed by George Innes & Co. It is admitted both by the warden and the directors, that no such bill of goods was ever furnished the institution, either by Mr. Duffy, Mr. Innes, or anybody else, and that the whole transaction was fraudulent from its inception."

The committee then goes on to detail smaller steals by the sale of coal in small amounts to private parties no account of which appears upon the books. Altogether it is a fine showing, and this is but one of a number of investigations of that and other public institutions some of which could not be published in detail as reported without danger of exclusion of the paper from the mails and landing the publisher in the pen. And the republican managers want a campaign based upon party records. They shall have their fill of it.

NOTES AND COMMENT.

Nobody finds fault with the Kentucky women being in politics, since it is conceded that they accomplished Breckenridge's defeat.

Thomas G. Lawler was elected commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, at the Pittsburg meeting, September 13. He is a native of England and lives in Rockford, Ill. In point of numbers the encampment was a success. The next will be held in Louisville, Ky.

The Breckenridge-Owen contest ended with the primary election held in the Ashland district last Saturday, and the wayward congressman was overwhelmingly defeated. The only thing for him to do now is to come to Kansas and be a republican. Then he could get a nomination without fighting for it.

The fickleness of law is again illustrated by a supreme court decision in Oklahoma, by which several hundred divorce bills granted during the last four years are declared null and void. Some of the divorced persons are married again and this makes them bigamists. Some are dead and their living half are now claiming the estate. And some find themselves the parents of illegitimate children, and all on account of this judge's peculiar construction of the law.

"The True Story Paper" is a new publication which comes from Baltimore, edited by A. S. Diggs, late of Lawrence, Kas. Its object is to expose lawlessness in high places by publishing such news as is always kept out of the ordinary papers. To use its own words: "Its work is to turn a searchlight into the dark corners of earth, to sing of the unsung, to mourn for the unmourned, to give to the world the romances in lives whiffed out by mammon, of those whose murderers are anarchists of high degree."